#### Construction Safety Council Breaking New Ground February 7, 2001

## Multi-Employer Safety Relationships on the Job Site

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#### **Contractor Liabilities**

- The entity responsible for overall site coordination, scheduling, etc. (Controlling Contractor) may be held liable for citation under OSHA.
- In the event of an accident multiple contractors may be held liable in Tort Liability case.

#### Site Safety Issues

- Overall site safety issues are the responsibility of the Controlling Contractor.
- If the "CC" assigns responsibilities to other contractors they must still exercise some level of control.
- The "CC" may ultimately be held accountable in the event of an accident.

### Safety in Contracts

- Requirements to comply with all safety regulations should be in the contract.
- Safety requirements more stringent than OSHA Standards, should be identified in the construction documents.
- Contract should include a discipline clause and even a termination clause for non-compliance with safety.

#### **Pre-Job Safety Planning**

- Know who each contractor's safety representative is and communicate with them.
- Establish responsibilities for primary safety issues.
- Include safety in pre-construction and progress meetings
- Establish requirements for regular safety meetings

# Responsibilities of the Controlling Contractor

- Promote safety cooperation.
- Assure overall safety of the site.
- Assure each contractor has MSDS's.
- Conduct safety audits.

## Responsibilities of "CC" (Cont.)

- Assist in investigations of accidents.
- Advise contractors of unsafe practices.
- Discipline contractors if necessary.
- Protect the public.

## Responsibilities of Individual Contractors

- Maintain their own safety & housekeeping
- Maintain Hazcom & MSDS's
- Provide trained and safe employees.

## Responsibilities of Individual Contractors (Cont.)

- Follow site safety requirements.
- Restore protections they remove.
- Advise "CC" of unsafe conditions.
- Advise "CC of any accident.

#### Types of Responsibilities

- Overall Safety Issues
  - Safety issues that affect employees of multiple contractors
- Individual Issues
  - Safety issues that affect only employees of that contractor.

#### Site Utilities

#### **OVERALL**

• Emergency numbers and directions posted.



All utilities located and marked.

Overhead power lines addressed



# Working Around Overhead Power







**INDIVIDUAL** 

**OVERALL** 

#### **Site Security**

#### **OVERALL**



Site fencing set.

•Site Lighting

Traffic controls for major equipment and material deliveries.

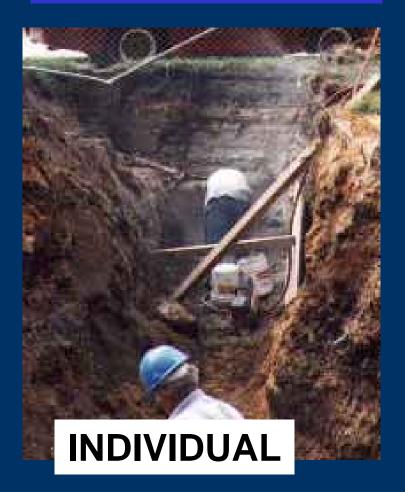
## Lifting



**INDIVIDUAL** 



#### **Excavations**



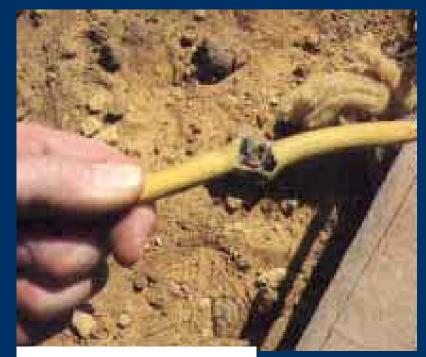
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**OVERALL** 



## Temporary Electrical



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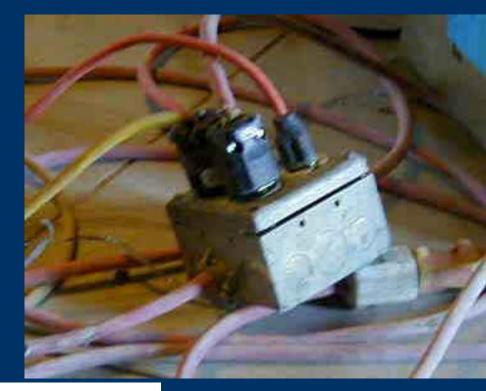


#### **OVERALL**



### **Open Outlets**





INDIVIDUAL & OVERALL

Temporary Boxes

# Framing, Steel & Masonry



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**INDIVIDUAL** 



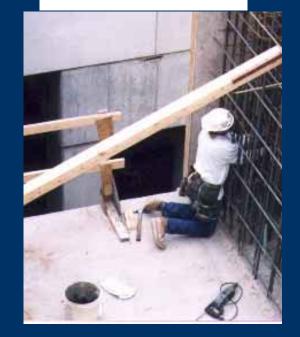
# Perimeter Protection



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**OVERALL** 



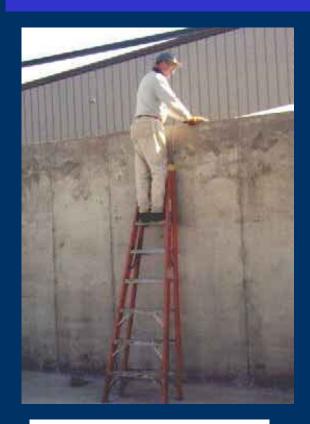
#### **Hole Protection**





**OVERALL** 

## Ladder Usage

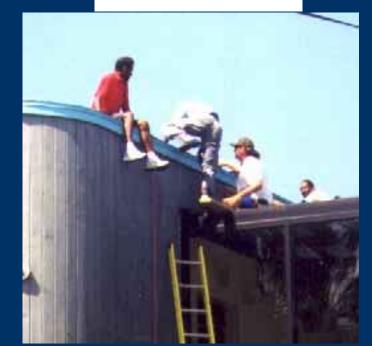


**INDIVIDUAL** 

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**OVERALL** 



## Scaffolds



**OVERALL** 

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#### **INDIVIDUAL**



## Roofing Work





**INDIVIDUAL** 

#### **Power Tools**





**INDIVIDUAL** 



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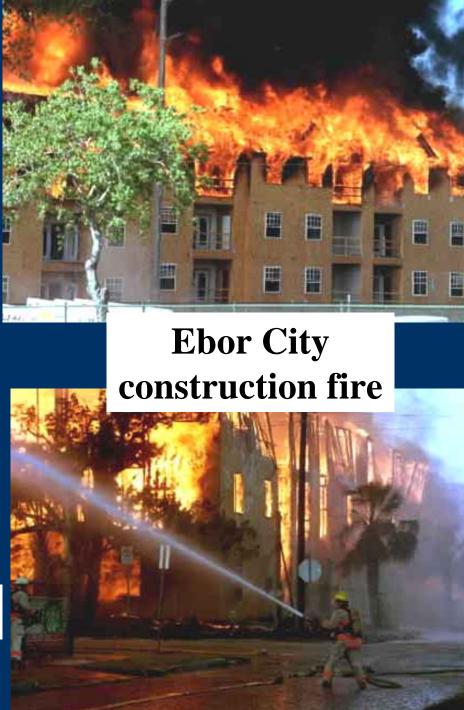
### Housekeeping



#### **Fire Protection**



**OVERALL & INDIVIDUAL** 



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#### **Competent Persons**

- Needed for many activities
- Should be supplied by contractor doing the work.
- "CC" has an obligation to assure that a competent person is overseeing safety of specific work activities.

#### Accidents to the Public

- People struck by falling objects.
- Pedestrians hit by equipment or trucks.
- Unauthorized people, such as children, getting into construction sites.

#### **Protect the Public**

- Separate the public and construction.
- Maintain site fences.
- Provide traffic control when needed.
- Utilize canopies over public sidewalks and screens or nets around work areas.
- Set barricades and warning signs.

#### Safety Enforcement

- The "CC" should enforce subcontractor's safety violations.
- When violations are noted, the offending contractor should be notified in writing.
- If, after due diligence, the offending contractor refuses to comply, they should be removed.

#### Multi-employer Policy

- OSHA may cite "Controlling Contractors" for violations not created by the "Controlling Contractor."
- Other employers may also be cited, whether or not their own employees are exposed.

#### **OSHA May Cite If:**

- Employees are exposed to a hazard.
- They created the hazard.
- They had the responsibility or the authority to correct the hazard.
- They knew of a hazard and did not inform others.

### The Controlling Employer

• The employer who is responsible, by contract or through actual practice, for safety and health conditions on the worksite.

### The Creating Employer

• The employer who actually creates the hazard.

• IE. The contractor who took the guardrails down and did not protect the hazard.

#### The Exposing Employer

• The employer whose employees are exposed to the hazard.

• IE. The contactor whose employees were exposed to a fall as a result of the guardrails being down.

#### The Correcting Employer

 The employer who has the responsibility for actually correcting the hazard

• IE. The contractor who had responsibility to maintain the guardrails.

#### Multiple Roles

• The same contractor may perform multiple rolls.

• IE. The GC is controlling, they have the responsibility to maintain the guardrails and they did not either do it or assure that it was done.

#### Defense of M/E Citations

- Prove that even with due diligence, you were unaware of the hazard.
- Show that you have informed the offending employer of the hazard, that you expect it corrected and that you have followed up on your request.
- Show that you protected your employees until the hazard was corrected.

#### **Defense of Civil Liability**

- All of the above.
- Confirm that subs have W/C insurance.
- Qualify subs for safety.
- Consider indemnification clauses in contracts.
- Remove unsafe employees.